DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VI NO. 17 August 16th 1957 Price: 15 Pf., 5c., 3d

ALL TROOPS OUT

Mr K: All Foreign Soldiers Should Leave East & West Europe

All foreign soldiers should be withdrawn from the countries in eastern and western Europe where they are now stationed, and a normal peace-time state of affairs should be restored in Europe.

This was the far-reaching proposal for European relaxation made by Nikita Khrushchov, First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party during a one-week visit to the German Democratic Republic early in August.

Mr Khrushchov told the East German Parliament on August 8th that the Soviet Union was perfectly ready to withdraw all Soviet troops from East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Rumania if American and other NATO troops were withdrawn from West Germany, France, Britain and other countries.

Mr K's proposal received the warm support of the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

During the course of his visit to East Germany, Mr Khrushchov, who was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Anastasi Mikoyan and other leading Soviet politicians, made an extensive tour of factories, agricultural cooperatives and other places of interest in many parts of the Democratic Republic. They also found time for thorough discussions with leader of the Socialist Unity Party and the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

At the conclusion of the visit, which lasted from August 7th to August 14th, a joint declaration was issued by the parties and governments of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union stressing their complete identity of views on a wide range of subjects.

Some of the main points made by the declaration were:

1. The Soviet Union fully supports proposals made by Democratic Germany for a confederation of the two existing German states after the two states have withdrawn from their committments to military blocks.

2. Greatly expanded trade relations between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic shall be arranged on a long-term basis.

3. The Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will

(cont. on next page)

R. H. S. Crossman, M. P. on Khrushchov's Peace Proposals

"Khrushchov plunged with both feet into the West German election campaign and advised voters to throw Adenauer out. I suspect Khrushchov's advice will have exactly the opposite effect. But after he threw his bombshell into the election, Khrushchov's mood suddenly changed, and he made the clearest, most sober statement of Russian peace plans yet.

"His positive peace proposals seem to me not so very far removed from what Hugh Gaitskell and Aneurin Bevan have been proposing, or from the ideas put forward by West German Socialists

"I believe, despite all his noisy abuse of Adenauer, Khrushchov really wants a peaceful settlement which will unify the Germans without threatening the neighbours."

("Daily Mirror" London August 9th)

STAMPS COMMEMORATE BERTOLT BRECHT

Special commemorative stamps with a portrait of the great German dramatist and poet Bertolt Brecht were issued by the German Democratic Republic on August 14th, first anniversary of his death. The two stamps, 10 pfennig green and 25 pfennig blue, both show a portrait of Bertolt Brecht by Ingeborg Friebel.

Mr K: All Foreign Soldiers Should Quit

(cont. from preceding page)

continue to "struggle implacably" against both revisionism and sectarianism in the international working class movement.

Declaration Text

Here are the main points from the joint statement issued in Berlin on August 14th at the conclusion of the discussions between the visiting Soviet delegation and leading politicians of the German Democratic Republic. The statement was signed by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany; Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic; Nikita Krushchov, First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; and Anastasi Mikoyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union:

The World Situation

"The representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the USSR . . note with pleasure that the efforts of the socialist states and all peace-loving forces in the world have led to a certain relaxation of tension in the past few months, and that popular resistance to the imperialist policy of strength and cold war is steadily growing.

"Both sides expressed their determination to continue their struggle for a relaxation of international tension, for general disarmament, for an immediate end to the testing of A-bombs and H-bombs, and for the complete banning of these weapons . . . The Government of the German Democratic Republic supports the proposal made by the Soviet Union that nuclear tests should be banned or at least suspended for two or three years."

West German Remilitarisation

"We cannot overlook the fact . . . that in West Germany a path is being taken which greatly endangers peace in Europe. The Government of the German Federal Republic, by permitting and fostering the stationing of nuclear weapons on German territory . . . is thus converting West Germany into the main NATO base for atomic warfare in Europe. This is a threat not only to the security of the peoples of Europe, but also a deadly danger to the people of West Germany, which would be exposed to the destructive effect of concentrated blows with modern nuclear weapons if the NATO war block should launch an atomic war.

"Both sides emphasise that no state and no people should underestimate the danger of the fact that the militarist circles of West Germany have entered into alliance with the aggressive circles of the United States, based upon their common aim of unleashing a new war."

The communiqué then condemned the attempts made by the western powers to couple the question of disarmament with the question of German reunification, as exemplified in the West Berlin declaration published on July 29th.

Peace in the Baltic

"The Soviet delegation expressed its complete agreement with the joint declaration of the German Democratic Republic and the Polish People's Republic that the Baltic Sea should be a sea of peace which should serve the interests of the peaceful development of the countries of Europe. The Soviet Union supports the efforts of the German Democratic Republic and the Polish People's Republic to reach agreement with the other states bordering the Baltic on cooperation for the joint solution of their common problems."

European Security

"Both sides expressed their conviction that security in Europe could not be attained by dividing the European countries into opposing military blocks, but only by means of the common effort of all countries to create a system of collective security including the states of Europe without respect to their social order.

"Relaxation of tension in Europe could be greatly helped by the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the countries of Europe, and the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the countries belonging to the North Atlantic Block and the countries belonging to the defence system of the Warsaw Treaty. The Government of the German Democratic Republic notes with satisfaction the agreement of both sides to the proposal that it is necessary to reduce considerably in the nearest future the strength of the forces of the four powers stationed in Germany. The acceptance of this proposal by the western powers would be an important step towards the withdrawal of all foreign troops from both West and East Europe, and to the restoration of normal peace-time conditions on the European continent. The German Democratic Republic declares that it is ready to participate in the establishment of a zone of limited and controlled armaments in Europe, in order to ease the creation of an effective security system."

The German Problem

"The German problem was thoroughly dealt with during the discussions, on the proposal of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic . . . Both sides believe that the restoration of German unity is in the first place a matter for the German people themselves."

The communiqué stated that the Soviet Union had given its full support to the proposals for German reunification made by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on July 27th. The proposals envisaged immediate steps to withdraw both parts of Germany from military alliances and to reduce military strength; this should form the basis for the formation of a German Confederation between the two German states.

"The Soviet Union supports these proposals, since they represent a feasible method of achieving the democratic reunification of Germany . . . The Soviet delegation declares that the Soviet Government is ready to do everything possible to help an understanding between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, particularly since the Soviet Union is the only great power which maintains diplomatic relations with both German states . . .

"Both sides regard it as necessary to state that there can be no reunification of Germany involving the sacrifice of the interests of the German Democratic Republic and the social achievements of he working people. The only way to a peaceful solution of the German problem is by means of a rapprochement and negotiations between the two existing German states. There can be no solution of the questions affecting the whole of Germany without the participation of the sovereign German

Note to Readers

Publication of this issue of GERMAN REPORT was delayed by several days to allow publication of the latest news on the negotiations between the Soviet delegation and the German Democratic Republic.

Democratic Republic, the peace-loving state of the German working people.

"Both sides agree that the strengthened unity of the countries of the Socialist Camp, based upon the principles of proletarian internationalism and loyalty to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism ... is the guarantee for the successful development of all countries which have taken the path of socialist construction ...

"The people of the Soviet Union regard the German Democratic Republic as a reliable bulwark of peace in Europe. The German Democratic Republic has an extraordinarily important part to play in the maintenance of peace in Europe, particularly in view of the present developments in West Germany.

"Both sides emphasised once again that, in accordance with the conditions of the Warsaw Treaty, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union will jointly defend the independence of the German Democratic Republic; they will permit no infringement of its frontiers, and will decisively repel all attempts to tamper with its peaceful work and the democratic achievements of the working people of the German Democratic Republic."

German-Soviet Relations

"Both sides regard the fraternal friendship between the German Democratic Republic and the USSR as a great historical achievement of the peoples of both countries, and as a guarantee for the development of strong friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the entire German people.

"Both sides note with satisfaction that the relations between the two countries have become even closer since the Moscow negotiations between the two governments in January this year ...

Trade Relations

"The delegations had an exchange of views on the trade relations between the German Democratic Republic and the USSR ... The delegations have agreed that in the near future negotiations should be held in Berlin in order to conclude an agreement on trade for the years 1958—60. This agreement will define the goods needed by the German Democratic Republic from the Soviet Union, such as hard coal and coke, iron ore, pig iron, rolled products, non-ferrous metals ... corn and other foodstuffs. The German Democratic Republic will supply the Soviet Union with industrial goods ..."

The communiqué stated that further far-reaching steps would be taken in industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries, such as close cooperation in the engineering industry and in industrial research.

Party Relations

The communiqué stated that the discussions between the representatives of the Socialist Unity Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have shown "full mutual understanding and agreement of views in all questions discussed."

The two parties exchanged information about developments in their respective parties in the past year.

"The representatives of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union hold it to be necessary to struggle implacably, in the future also, against revisionism, which is a capitulation to the ideology of the enemies of the working class. Both parties will struggle implacably against sectarianism and ossified dogmatism, since these lead to an isolation from the masses.

"Both parties note that the unity of the international communist movement has been strengthened recently, despite all attempts to undermine this solidarity undertaken by the reactionary imperialist forces and all types of revisionist and opportunist elements ...

"Both parties believe that the negotiations on August 1st and 2nd between the delegations of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Communist League ... were a great contribution towards strengthening the unity of the socialist countries and the entire international communist movement."

KHRUSHCHOV ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S CHAMBER

The Soviet Union would be willing to withdraw all troops from East Germany and other countries in eastern Europe if American and other troops are withdrawn from countries in western Europe, Mr. Khrushchov told the East German People's Chamber on August 8th.

In the course of a two hour address to the parliament of the German Democratic Republic the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union stressed the interest of the Soviet Union in strengthening its close ties with the Democratic Republic and developing better relations with West Germany. Here are some of the main points from his speech:

Taking Troops Home

"The Soviet Union has repeatedly proposed to the western powers that a start should be made with an agreed step-by-step withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany. Further, the Soviet Union has declared in the past, and repeats today, that it is ready to withdraw all troops not only from the German Democratic Republic but also from Poland, Hungary and Rumania, if the United States and the other NATO countries withdraw their troops from West Germany, France, Britain and other countries.

"Why do the western powers not take up this simple, logical and obvious suggestion? Let us restore a state of affairs that is natural for peace time. Every nation should arrange matters within its own frontiers as it wants to, without the presence of foreign troops."

German Unity

"The reunification of Germany is no easy matter in the situation which has grown up. There is only one German nation, but there are two German states, with different social and political orders and diametrically opposed in their home and foreign policy. This must not be overlooked by anyone who really wants reunification. Under these circumstances any attempt to reunite Germany by any formal juridical action from outside would be a dangerous illusion.

"Some politicians in West Germany believe that the reunification of Germany is a matter for the four powers. But the German people cannot be ignored; the question of German reunification cannot be solved behind their backs.

"The times when the fate of nations was decided against their will are long past. The Germans are masters in their own country, and they must themselves solve the problem of reuniting Germany. Of course this does not mean that we want to deprive the four powers of their respon-

sibility for Germany's future, but we believe that the four powers have the duty to help the German people to solve the problem on a peaceful democratic basis by means of negotiations between the two German states."

Mr. Khrushchov then expressed the full support of the Soviet Government for the reunification programme tabled on July 27th by the Government of the German Democratic Republic, main feature of which was the withdrawal of the two German states from the two military groupings in Europe, and the formation of a confederation of the two German states.

War Danger

"In our times, in which war technique and means of mass destruction have developed unusually quickly, a new war would make deserts of prosperous thickly populated areas. If the imperialists should launch a war here, on the dividing line between the countries of the aggressive NATO block and the countries of the Socialist Camp, it would be just here that the atom bombs and the hydrogen bombs would explode.

"It is of the utmost importance that the Germans in the western part of the country should finally understand this, and take steps to prevent it. The German people must and can prevent such a catastrophe if they prevent a handful of militarists and monopolists from playing with their future.

"The statesmen of Britain, France and other countries should also reflect upon the fact that their territories would also lie in the operational area of the A-bombs and H-bombs in the case of military operations. The statesmen of the United States should remember that in these days of rapid development in the rocket field there is no country safe from these bombs...

"The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic are partners in the Warsaw Treaty. The aim of this treaty is to prevent the great danger presented by the formation of the aggressive North Atlantic block. You may be assured that in case of need the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries will do their duty with regard to the German Democratic Republic, and that they will defend its democratic achievements, its liberty and independence."

"THE GERMAN STORY"

East German Anti-Militarist Film Gets Big London Reception

East Germany's historical documentary film "The German Story" showing the role of German militarism in recent European history had an enthusiastic reception from the press when shown recently in London at the National Film Theatre.

The film, shown for the first time in Democratic Germany last year under the German title "Du und mancher Kamerad" was fully reviewed in GERMAN REPORT dated November 23rd 1956.

Here is what the "Times", London, had to say about this fine film on July 29th:

"The private showing of 'The German story' at the National Film Theatre yesterday made it clear that while the courage of the directors, Herr and Frau Annelie Thorndike, in making and showing this film in eastern Germany and former German-occupied countries is admirable, so is the technical achievement of their chief cameraman, Herr Walter Fuchs, in restoring the old documentary films which have been used. The purpose of 'The German Story' is to establish the war-guilt of the German capitalists in general and of the armament makers in particular, in both World Wars, and its method is to rely almost entirely on contemporary photographic records.

"Some of these were almost half a century old, and many had shrunk and suffered damage. Their perforation was often torn, and at least 20 different kinds of frame had been used for them, while the speed of many reels — 14 to 18 pictures a second — was considerably lower than is required for modern film work. The cleaning, re-photographing, and processing of this old material was accomplished in such a way that there is no visual discrepancy between the various periods of the story. Decade follows decade without a break. We are made to feel that neither human beings nor — except in name — their taskmasters have changed during the course of this half-century. The story throughout not only is, but looks, the same story. The chief strength and the urgency of the film lie in this.

"Also, though it is an indictment of warmongers, it is even more a plea for sympathy with their victims — that is to say the working-class in Germany not less than in the countries which the German armies overran. And if the warmongers are not always credible here, authentic though their scenes are, the people itself is. In this case the devil does not have the good tunes. Humanity has them. We believe in these sheep which are twice led to the slaughter. We believe, that is, that they are human beings like ourselves."

"The German Story" is available for hire to clubs and organisations in Britain at reasonable rates from Plato Films, 18 Greek Street, London W. 1.

Shorts

The German Democratic Republic won second place in the International Sports Festival in Moscow, competing against top sportsmen and women from fort countries.

More than half of the 240 East German sports groups competing brought home medals or diplomas, amongst them 7 gold, 13 silver and 21 bronze medals. Their best results were in light athletics, gymnastics, water polo, swimming and handball.

*

Floating cranes, truck-mounted cranes, electro lifting cranes and transport vehicles are to be supplied by East German firms to modernise Chenkiang harbour in China.

*

The Bureau for Industrial Architecture in Karl Marx Stadt, East Germany, is designing a factory for abrasives for China. The factory will cover an area of 500,000 square metres and will produce grinding wheels and related products on a very big scale.

WHAT THEY SAY

West German Leaders Let Their Hair Down

Co-Existence

"The word co-existence is opium to the peoples of the West".

(West German Federal Minister Waldemar Kraft, in "Der Sudetendeutsche", Hamburg, March 24th 1956)

"We are living in a technical age in which the combined strength of our allies is sufficient to wipe the Soviet Union off the map".

(Federal Defence Minister Strauss, in "Der Mittag", Dusseldorf, November 15th 1956)

"Unfortunately we in Germany are next door to the possible enemy".

(Lieutenant General Kammhuber, Luftwaffe chief, in "Nurnberger Nachrichten", February 10th 1957)

... "Those are all apes who dance attendance on the Ambassador to the USSR at receptions in Bonn. Only the fools of the German press can still talk of negotiations with the Soviet Union on reunification today. The collision with the Soviet Union is unavoidable".

(Herr Jahn, chairman of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Demokratischer Kreise" at an air force officers' training course in Hamburg, 15th November 1956)

"Peaceful" Re-Unification

"Hold on! We shall set you free! We also remember our brothers in Czechoslovakia and Poland!"

(Chancellor Adenauer speaking to East German guests at the Cologne Catholic Conference in 1956)

"For us ... reunification does not end on the Oder-Neisse line; the liberation of the Middle Zone merely represents the first phase".

(Von Kessel, Provincial Minister and Chairman of the Refugee Party in Hessen, in the "Frankfurter Rundschau", April 23rd 1956)

"I reached the conviction in Budapest that we must waste no more time in rearming. If barracks are lacking, then Strauss must have them built in day and night shifts ... When we are strong enough, when we have enough forces at our disposal, then there will be an October 23rd in the Zone such as Hungary has had ... this means that reunification can only be brought about by a people's uprising".

(Prince zu Loewenstein, Free Democratic Party Member of the Federal Parliament, in the "Frankfurter Allgemeine", November 13th 1956)

"The earliest possible spiking of the zonal frontier ... with long-distance guns which can be fired in seconds (and in masses)".

(West German Luftwaffe Commander General Kammhuber, "Sueddeutsche Zeitung", February 26th 1957)

"Friendly Relations"

"We must be armed to the teeth if we want to speak in a friendly way with the Soviets".

(Chancellor Adenauer, speaking at a Christian Democratic Union evangelical meeting in West Berlin, October 12th 1956)

... "we face this world, which is in fact our deadly enemy, with the greatest possible caution".

(Chancellor Adenauer, in the "Industriekurier", May 26th 1956)

"Federal Defence Minister Strauss declared on Friday that the future defence policy would be carried on in such a way as to back up the foreign policy aims of the Federal Government".

("Der Tagesspiegel", Berlin, January 1st 1957)

"As soon as we achieve the necessary strength we can take an independent stand against East and West, also against France".

(Von Heynitz, Chairman of the German Party, at a meeting in Tiergarten, West Berlin, on June 28th 1956)

"According to Admiral Ruge, the real importance of the German navy lies in the fact that, thanks to its experience, it is the best guarantee that the entrances to the Baltic Sea will remain open. He is of the opinion that only when the Baltic Sea is constantly open to fleets from outside will the pressure of the great sea powers be felt within the Baltic, along the thousand kilometres of Soviet occupied coastline, which is almost all suitable for landing operations ..."

("Frankfurter Allgemeine", September 17th 1956)

The "New-Model" Wehrmacht

"The important thing is to set up an army of the quality of the earlier German armed forces".

(Dr. Richard Jaeger, Christian Democratic Union, Chairman of the Parliamentary Defence Commission and Deputy Chairman of the Federal Parliament, in the "Frankfurter Allgemeine", September 19th 1956)

"Officers of the former Waffen-SS who did not hold higher ranks than that of Obersturmbannfuehrer (First Lieutenant) will be re-employed with their former rank in the Federal Army".

(From the resolution of the Federal Parliamentary Personnel Commission, "Der Tagesspiegel", Berlin, September 7th 1956)

"Of the 38 Federal Army generals, 31 were members of the former General Staff".

("Die Welt", Hamburg, December 8th 1956)

"We shall have a General Staff again! It will not be called that, but army, navy, air force and internal defence are coordinated in this inspection leadership ... Since Strauss presented his new plans, no military attaché in Bonn can be in any doubt about the fact that the original veto on a German General Staff has been quietly set aside".

("Freie Presse", Bielefeld, February 13th 1957)

"To put it shortly: The changes actually planned are quantitative, not qualitative. The spirit in the ranks will remain the same".

("Neue Presse", Frankfurt, March 15th 1956)

"It is the task of all free-thinking people to eradicate Bolshevism and Jewdom as world factors of power. The use of force to achieve this freedom is justified. The fight must

(cont. on next page)

TWO "BERLIN PLANS"

British & American Press on Germany Policies

The two "Berlin plans" for the future of Germany, published in East and West Berlin at the end of July, have been the subject of considerable comment in the British and American press.

The "East Berlin Plan", announced by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on July 27th, proposed a ban on atomic weapons in both halves of Germany, the withdrawal of all foreign troops, the exit of East and West Germany from the Warsaw Pact and NATO, and a subsequent confederation of the two German states.

The "West Berlin Plan" drafted by the western allies and the West German Government, and published in West Berlin on July 29th proposed all-German elections, laid down that the existence of NATO should not be questioned, and coupled disarmament and German reunification, giving the West German Government the right to veto any European disarmament proposals. Full details of the two plans were published in GERMAN REPORT dated August 2nd..

Here is a selection of comments on the plans from the British and American press:

"The (West) Berlin Declaration, worked out with the help of the Chancellor's Government, was specifically designed to help him (Adenauer) with the voters and to ensure continuation of a pro-NATO administration.

"The tripartite statement was more an internal political than external diplomatic document. It contributed nothing really new to the stalemated problem of German unification."

(Commentator C. L. Sulzberger in the "New York Times", August 3rd)

*

"The declaration of Berlin, which was published on Monday . . . is a committment on our part not to try to negotiate a significant treaty on armaments. For this declaration gives Dr Adenauer the power of veto until the Soviet Union agrees to German reunification on terms which amount to unconditional surrender. At present, to put it mildly, the unconditional surrender of the Soviet Union is not in sight.

"This declaration will no doubt be useful to Dr Adenauer in his election campaign. But it amounts to an extraordinary concession for a great power to make, to give another nation such a privilege and such a preference in dominating the conduct of its own foreign policy. Let us hope we do not learn to regret it".

(Commentator Walter Lippmann in the "New York Herald Tribune" Paris Edition, August 3rd)

*

"Certainly more attention will have to be paid to the confederation proposal (made by the East German Government, ed.) should it be restated as Soviet policy. As it stands it is unacceptable to all the political parties here (Bonn, ed.) . . . but it can be said that it goes beyond the previous Soviet blank assertion that reunification was a problem for the two German Governments to solve.

"If viewed as a proposal open to amendment through negotiation between the four Powers, and in relation to any plan for European arms inspection that may emerge from the London disarmament negotiations, it is remarkably adventurous. It must be remembered that the population of east Germany is little more than one-third of that of the Federal Republic, that its industrial strength is much smaller, and that there is no comparison between the popularity of the two regimes. Yet a loose association has been proposed that could give some play to these forces.

"For the first time a Communist regime would be to some extent exposed to popular debate, and would be compared directly and constantly with a western system of government. It is difficult to believe that in such an arrangement, presumably guaranteed by the west as well as the Soviet Union, the Federal Republic would be worsted, that contacts between eastern and western Germans could not be improved, and that, even with the demand for the lifting of the ban on the Communist Party in the Federal Republic, the western parties would not be strengthened.

"No party here has yet spoken openly of any second thoughts it may have had, because of the widespread aversion to Herr Ulbricht and, perhaps, because of the coming elections. On the other hand, the Social Democrats have always recognised that the nationalisation of industry and the land reform in East Germany will require special treatment. While they are not seen as sufficient cause for the refusal to hold elections, many may agree that it is unrealistic to demand immediate elections.

"Obviously the Social Democrats, or any other party, may have to review the situation should the proposal prove to be Mr Khrushchev's la word, and there is little disposition here to believe that it will be anything else."

(Bonn Correspondent, "Times", London, August 6th)

*

"The (West) Berlin declaration ... amounts to a conspiracy to ensure a Western German Government of the same complexion as those of the United States, Britain and France ... The forces that produced Hitler have

---

(cont. from preceding page)

WHAT THEY SAY

continue until Jewdom is also removed in the West".

(Ex-Lieutenant Colonel von Zydowitz speaking to the fascist Ludendorff Association in Duisburg, December 7th 1956)

"It can still be an honour for the German youth ... to die young".

(Theodor Blank, former Federal Defence Minister, speaking to members of the German Soldiers' Association, "Flensburger Tageblatt", July 14th 1956)

"Behind the many fine speeches by Ambassador Conant, Defence Minister Strauss, Luftwaffe chief General Kammhuber and many others stands the re-birth, the third birth, of the German Luftwaffe, which is rich in proud traditions".

("Der Mittag", Dusseldorf, November 13th 1956)

"The old way ... produced good soldiers ... we want to return to the old way as quickly as possible".

(Federal Army officer in Luneburg, in an interview with British "News Chronicle" journalist George Vine, January 1957)

learned nothing. Hitler paralysed the diplomacy of the West by using Russia as a bogey-man. Adenauer is doing the same thing ... Of course the parallel cannot be pushed too far, but the central thesis is founded on the principle that the peace of Europe can be secured, not by an accomodation with Russia, but by assuming her permanent and implacable hostility ...

"It suits Dr Adenauer and his friends, as it suited Hitler, to delude the people of the West until the military revival of Germany once more makes her the arbiter of European destinies ...

"The German people should understand that this (West) Berlin Declaration is not supported by the bulk of the British people. The British people also wish to see Germany reunited, but they are convinced that this can be done only in the wider context of general European settlement to which Russia would be a party, and which would include also the pacification of the Eastern European countries as a whole . . ."

(Aneurin Bevan, "Tribune", London, August 2nd)

MORE M.P.s VISIT E. GERMANY

A party of seven British Labour M.P.s, including several former cabinet ministers, made a one week visit to the German Democratic Republic at the beginning of August. The M.P.s were: Ness Edwards, former Postmaster General; Wilfred Paling, former Minister of Pensions and Postmaster General; William Glenvil Hall, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party in 1950—51; Arthur Massey Skeffington, former member of the National Executive of the Labour Party; Roy Mason, M.P. for Barnsley; Harold Boardman, formerly Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Labour; and Robert Mellish, former Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Pensions.

A short visit was also paid to the German Democratic Republic by Richard Crossman, Labour M.P. for Coventry. He was invited by the Lord Mayor of Dresden.

A Dresden steel construction firm supplied Egypt with pylons up to 140 metres in height for overhead electric cables in the Nile delta.

•

The East Berlin Escalator Construction Company is to supply eight escalators for the largest department store in the Balkans, now being built in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Letter from Dr. Albert Schweitzer to Dr. Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic

20th May 1957

"Dear Dr. Nuschke,

Thank you very much for your friendly telegramm. I have felt bound to express my opinion on the question of the danger of continued atom bomb experiments, since as a holder of the Nobel Peace Price I had the possibility to broadcast my warning over the Oslo radio. Public expressions of opinion against these attempts must come from all the peoples in order to achieve something in the matter. I can only hope that I have succeeded in arousing people from their thoughtlessness.

My poor cramped writing hand and overworked eyes prevent me from writing to you as I should like to do, but I was determined to thank you personally for the approval expressed in your telegram.

With my best wishes,

Albert Schweitzer"

"The Black Menace..."

Racialist Propaganda in W. German Geography Books

Many of the geography books used in West German schools today infect young people with racialist and expansionist ideas taken over bodily from nazi school books. This is shown clearly by a study of the geography book "Laender und Voelker" (Countries and Peoples) published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, which has been officially approved for use in West German schools.

Here is a passage from this book on South Africa:

"In the slums of the black population the poverty is even greater. The Negroes are ruined by drunkenness and immorality. Under such circumstances the black agitators find it easy to incite the embittered people. They tell them that Africa belongs to the blacks, that they are exploited and swindled by the whites, and that they have the majority in the country. This is the black menace which threatens South Africa." ("Laender" Vol 3, page 61.)

And here is another passage implicitly claiming "racial superiority" for the white races:

"The Europeans and the North Americans are marked by their inventiveness, courage and strength in action, while the Indians and the Chinese are marked for their patience and frugality. Europeans and Americans do not adapt themselves to nature like the Asiatics, but strive to subjugate nature to their wishes. They are not content with the product of their fields, but stretch out their hands for all the goods of the earth" ("Laender", Vol 7, page 6.)

True to the nazi pattern the Japanese are described as the exception to this rule about the "frugal Asiatics", and are depicted, with full use of such nazi terminology as "Lebensraum" (Living space) as the "leading force for law and order in South East Asia".

But nazi terminology and fascist modes of thought are not confined to the chapters devoted to the African and Asian nations. They infect the chapters about Europe too:

"If the West European nations do not wish to lose their place in the world, then they must come together in a political and economic 'Grossraum'. Attempts to unite the occident by force have already been made in the past by Napoleon and Hitler. Both attempts failed". ("Laender" Vol 7, page 151.)

In this extraordinary paragraph Hitler is presented as a forerunner of Paneuropa!

It goes without saying that in dealing with Germany, this geography book, like all other officially licenced geography books and atlases published in West Germany, ignores the new eastern frontier of Germany on the Oder-Neisse laid down by the Potsdam Agreement in 1945, and claims as "part of Germany" those territories now incorporated in Poland and the Soviet Union.

(A full analysis of nazi ideology in West German history textbooks was published in GERMAN REPORT dated September 28th 1956. A few copies of this issue are still available, and can be supplied on request to readers interested in this problem.)

Factory for Sudan

A new cotton spinning mill in the Sudan has been completely equipped by an East German spinning machinery firm which has supplied spinning mill equipment to twenty-five countries during the last six years.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Phyllis Fosner

Where, one wonders, do world statesmen get their seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy? Accompanying Soviet Communist Party Secretary Nikita Khrushchov on his tour in the south of the German Democratic Republic this thought came to me again.

Mr. K. had no eight hour day, more like a twenty-hour day, much of which was devoted to making speeches each of which was different, although many of the basic ideas propounded were the same.

Protocol

At a discussion with East German intellectuals the Soviet Deputy Premier Mr. Mikoyan caused a ripple of laughter when he told his audience, "the protocol decides very minute of our programme. I do not wish to put the responsibility onto anybody else. You might counter with 'you were able to make a revolution, can't you alter the protocol?' But we can't."

However, despite the protocol, there were many informal moments to be enjoyed when we accompanied Mr. K. He is happiest, it would seem, discussing technical problems, especially those connected with maize, his passion and the "queen of plants" as he described it.

Our first glimpse of the Soviet visitors was on their arrival at East Berlin. Journalists from East and West, some of whom had travelled hundreds of miles for the occasion, were packed together like sardines. So closely jammed were we that the barrier started bulging most ominously and if a couple of friendly people's policemen hadn't put their shoulders against it I think we would all have landed flat on our faces in the roadway.

Baffled Cops

As soon as the Soviet party mounted the platform, from which later Mr. K. spoke, a Nigerian student in gold and purple robes rushed up to greet the Soviet Communist Party Secretary. He stretched out his hand to shake that of Mr. K., saying to the astonished security police, "He's my friend. I met him in London. I want to give him a letter." Mr. Khrushchov, surprised but beaming, gave him a smile and a warm handshake. So did Mr. Mikoyan and Walter Ulbricht, Socialist Unity Party Secretary.

The next occasion I was to see Mr. K. at close range was at the Markkleeberg agricultural exhibition in Leipzig. As Mr. Khrushchov stepped out of his car he greeted exhibition director Dr. Oscar Baumgartner with the words, "We are old acquaintances on the basis of maize."

They have been in correspondence since Mr. K's last visit to the Democratic Republic in 1955 and he has arranged for Soviet machinery and maize seeds to be sent to Dr. Baumgartner.

The Soviet party started on their tour of the agricultural machines on exhibition. Try as they might the security police could not keep the crowd away. Everybody's ears were strained to hear Mr. K.'s shrewd questions and the answers, but it was rather hard because no sooner had he posed one then the machine's engine started roaring.

However, we did not have this difficulty in the hall where agronomist Wilhelm Guss explained East Germany's maize cultivation methods and showed him samples of the results. Mr. K. always asks penetrating questions, but none so penetrating as those on maize.

He told Herr Guss, "your machines are good, but your maize isn't. Let's go and have a look where the maize is growing because in agriculture the field is the judge." We went to the field where, with expert eye, Mr. K. inspected the maize. That didn't please him either; it was, he pointed out, too closely planted. As he was speaking he reflectively broke off a cob and started chewing it, saying "nobody ever died from eating fresh maize. It contains plenty of sugar and it's very tasty."

Factory Visit

The visit to Markkleeberg was only the start of an extremely full day. Immediately afterwards the Soviet visitors went to the Kirov engineering works. Mr. K. went up to a couple of workers at the bench, asked them what they thought of their machines, what were their problems.

At the factory gates he spoke for a few minutes to the workers crowding round his car in their thousands. With an engaging grin he asked them, "do you want to go back to capitalist conditions?" A mighy roar of "no" was the response, whereupon Mr. Khrushchov told them, "I thought not, that would be pure madness."

That evening Mr. Khrushchov addressed a demonstration in Leipzig stadium, which holds over 100,000 people. I should estimate the stadium, was about half-full. Considering that a couple of hours previously there had been a cloudburst and that ever since it had been raining hard, I think the attendance was good. And what it lacked in numbers it made up in enthusiasm.

It took Mr. Khrushchov a long time to mount the steps to the speakers' rostrum so many hands were thrust out in greeting, so many parents holding up their children to have a look, if possible, to pat his back.

No Wash-Out

He caused a roar of laughter when he began his speech, with a Russian proverb, "our friendship is so strong that not even water can wash it away." Mr. K.'s speech was full of confidence in the superiority of socialism over capitalism and in the belief that there would be a long and durable peace.

Many a time during his trip from Leipzig to Magdeburg Mr. K. stopped and said a few words to the people lining the route, always finding the right tone.

During the following twenty-four hours he visited several factories in Magdeburg, one of East Germany's heavy engineering centres, spoke at a lively demonstration attended by over 100,000 people, visited a machine tractor station and an agricultural production-operative, and attended a reception.

The next morning he was able to busy himself with his beloved maize, when he visited the Schwaneberg state-owned seed farm.

Sausage on Stalk

Pointing to the maize he commented, "There is sausage growing on a stalk. That's butter, it's steak and its ham. In another six weeks these cobs will be over 18 inches long. Now do you understand why I am so keen on maize?"

Mr. K.'s enthusiasm for and expert knowledge about maize is only one facet of this extraordinary man, radiating energy even when those all around him have long since halfwilted. He is full of quips, of apt Russian proverbs (there are at least 30,000) and he has the faculty of talking to people in their own language whether they be workers or intellectuals. Being "on the road with Mr. K." was an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik